Doorstep Newsletter Article – July, 2019

Last December Doorstep assisted 260 households involving 822 individuals with Christmas gifts and food. Each year we celebrate “Christmas in July” to get a jump start on collecting new items for our annual Christmas adoption! Our goal is to help alleviate some of the strain during the holidays by also collecting items mid-year. Doorstep will adopt 260 households with 750+ individuals this December through the Christmas Bureau. By having items donated in July, our Christmas Store Chair, Judy Neher, has a better idea what items we still need by November. Judy is here every week sorting through donations, and organizing the basement where our Christmas donations are stored until the Christmas Store week arrives!

Our focus for Christmas in July is household items, health kit items, toys, school supplies, gifts for men and women, sheet sets, and blankets. These are items that are not seasonal, and easy to find this time of year! The families we adopt are in need of basic items. They are so happy to receive a new set of dishes, new sheets, pots and pan, or a crockpot! We give every family a blanket or quilt. Last year we were short 100 blankets, and had to purchase them the week of the Store.

Each school aged child we adopt receives school supplies and a backpack, if needed. Typically, they have used up their back to school supplies, and they need replenished. Also, each of the 260 households receives a health kit filled with hygiene products, and wrapped with a new bath towel, hand towel and washcloth!

Each child receives one bigger toy as their gift, and other smaller items are available along with games, books, stuffed animals, stocking stuffers etc. Typically, we are lacking in the main gift area. If you can help with toys for children ages 2-12 and gifts for the teenagers (make up and nail kits) we would be grateful.

Please look over the Christmas in July flyer and see how you can help. Doorstep continues to be successful helping people in need because of our member congregations who are working together to provide for their neighbors in need. If everyone pitches in just a little, big things will happen!

Please bring your Christmas donations to worship in July or to Doorstep, Monday – Friday, 8am – 3pm.